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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRATISLAVA 000552

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SUBJECT: SLOVAK VIEWS ON JULY 18 GAERC

REF: STATE 124856

Classified By: Political/Economic Section Chief Debra Hevia for reasons
1.4 b and d

1. (C) Pol-Econ Chief shared ref A pre-GAERC points with Lubomir Rehak, European Correspondent, on July 8. Rehak was pleased to discuss U.S. positions and stated that he would share the talking points with others within the Ministry prior to the GAERC meeting, adding that Foreign Minister Kukan always read the U.S. points in his briefing book.

Turkey/Croatia

2. (C) Rehak said the Turkish Ambassador, in a recent meeting at the MFA, had expressed frustration with the conditions that have been placed on Turkey before accession negotiations can begin. Slovakia will insist that Turkey fulfill all the conditions. Recognizing Cyprus will be an important step. Rehak said Slovakia is concerned that if accession negotiations begin for Turkey while Croatia is still denied negotiations, internal problems in Croatia could ensue. He added that Slovakia, along with Hungary and Austria, believes that negotiations with Croatia must begin at the same time if not before they are begun with Turkey. Croatia has more in common with other European countries than Turkey. Of course it will be necessary for Croatia to cooperate with ICTY, but Carla del Ponte should not be the judge of "full cooperation," rather it should be a special commission from the EU.

UN High Level Event on Millennium Review

3. (C) Rehak said that Slovakia is in general agreement with the U.S. on UN reform.

Syria/Lebanon, Iran

4. (C) Rehak stated that Slovakia has no disputes with the U.S. position on Syria/Lebanon. On Iran, Rehak mentioned that the EU is discussing what type of representation to send to President-elect Ahmadinejad's inauguration, and would perhaps limit attendance to ambassadors in-country. Rehak said that the EU should refine its policy on Iran in the lead-up to the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in September.

Uzbekistan

5. (C) Slovakia remains particularly concerned about Uzbekistan, and is receiving first-hand information from Slovak Ambassador Miroslav Jenca, who is heading the OSCE office in Tashkent. Because the Uzbeks refuse any meetings with EU members, Jenca is virtually the only channel of communication with Europe. Rehak said that Uzbekistan will surely be seriously discussed at the upcoming GAERC meeting. Some member states are reluctant to send any strong signals (e.g. Germany opposes visa restrictions) and some remain opposed to using the "Moscow Mechanism" of the OSCE. Rehak was eager to hear U.S. views of the Moscow Mechanism and the U.S. assesment of developments in Uzbekistan. He said that Slovakia would like to see the situation change in a way that would allow the OSCE to negotiate, but that this remains difficult due to the Uzbek's aversion to take advice from the OSCE or the EU. He agreed that some type of consequences for Uzbekistan must be enacted by the EU in light of the passing of the June 30 deadline, and lamented that the EU did not have real consequences in mind when it set the deadline.

THAYER

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